



HILLS

EMERGENCY

FORUM

Annual Report
2002

City of Berkeley
City of El Cerrito
City of Oakland
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
East Bay Municipal Utility District
East Bay Regional Park District
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
University of California at Berkeley



HEF Mission

The mission of the Hills Emergency Forum is to coordinate the collection, assessment and sharing of information on East Bay hills fire hazards and further, to provide a forum for building interagency consensus on the development of fire safety standards and codes, incident response and management protocols, public education programs, multi-jurisdictional training, and fuel reduction strategies.

October 18, 2002

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Hills Emergency Forum, welcome to the tenth annual meeting of the Forum. The Hills Emergency Forum was formed in October 1992 in direct response to the need for a coordinated regional approach to emergency preparedness and response.

This past year we have focused on developing regional standards for roadside vegetation management. The latest standards had been published in 1967. While they provided a good starting point, they did not incorporate the realities of today's urban interface, environmental regulations or current technology. The draft standards are now being circulated for review and consideration as priorities are established for next year's fuel management projects.

In October 1999 we identified four new directions for the Millennium. We have used opportunities this year to outreach beyond the eight member agencies to others such as the Alameda County Emergency Services Managers, California Fire Alliance and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We have continued to concentrate on legislative outreach tracking the impacts of Sudden Oak Death and legislation that surrounds this pathogen that is changing the face of the California landscape. We have laid plans for public education workshops to be held in 2003 and continued our special projects by providing distribution of the 10 year After Action Report and updating our web site at www.lbl.gov/ehs/hef.

The 2002 Annual Report and Public Meeting serve to document the positive changes our agencies have brought to the Oakland- Berkeley Hills region. We recognize that our work is by no means completed. This report highlights the efforts of both Hills Emergency Forum and individual member agencies during the past year.

On behalf of all the members of the Forum, I would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose support and input have enabled us to move forward our agenda of emergency preparedness. We welcome your participation and comments.

Sincerely,

Horace Mitchell
Vice Chancellor-Business and Administrative Services
University of California, Berkeley
2001-2002 Chair, Hills Emergency Forum

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2002 Highlights

1. Sustained multi-agency partnership to manage East Bay Hills fire risk.
 - Mutual Response Agreements and Automatic Aid Agreements
 - Interagency Training Sessions
 - Interagency Issues
2. Directions for the Millennium
 - Collaboration with Other Agencies (Alameda County Emergency Services Managers, California Fire Alliance, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Diablo Fire Safe Council, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Santa Clara Fire Safe Council)
 - Legislative Outreach (Sudden Oak Death legislation)
 - Public Education (FireSafe 2003, NFPA Firewise Workshop, Updated Web Site, Distribution of 10 year assessment report)
 - Special Projects (Roadside Clearance Standards)
3. Mitigation Planning
 - Regional EIR (collaborative organization and funding)
 - Fire modeling - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
 - Development of FireStats program
 - GPS for Fire Boundaries
 - New Hill Fire Station in Berkeley
 - Joint Agency Parking Restrictions along Grizzly Peak Boulevard
5. Vegetation Management
 - FEMA Grant to UC Berkeley (Panoramic Hill – Last year of 3 year project)
 - Joint Agency Project along Claremont Head Slope/ Grizzly Peak
 - CDF Grant to Oakland for Shepherd Canyon, City funds for 5 canyons
6. Prescribed Burn Program
 - Wildland 2002 Training at Camp Parks
 - Planning for Future Prescribed Fires
7. Media Relations and Disaster Communications
 - Hands-on Training at Wildland 2002

1.0 Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Overview

1.1 2002 Highlights

The primary mission of the HEF continues to be to provide a sustainable framework for interagency communication, joint planning and coordinated response to the needs of our various constituents. The organization's goals developed over the years and grouped into the four areas of Assessment, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response continue to serve as milestones for our collective efforts. However, many of these goals are now in a "maintenance" mode as evidenced by the proposed 2003 Work Plan

The highlights of our work during 2002 include:

Public Education

FireSafe 2003: Building on the success of the Wildland Conference held in October 2001, the HEF has joined with fire safety organizations of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to develop a workshop aimed at homeowner organizations. The one-day workshop is aimed at training key individuals that can help make their neighborhoods more aware of wildland fire and how to reduce hazards. The interactive workshop is anticipated in May of 2003. Funding has been sought through the Bureau of Land Management Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. For more information and updates on the planning process see www.ucfpl.ucop.edu/ERFire.htm.

California FIREWISE Community Workshop: The East Bay has been selected as one of the locations for the six FIREWISE Community Workshops being sponsored by the California Fire Alliance throughout California during 2002-03. This nationally recognized program developed by the National Fire Protection Association brings together elected officials, local government planners, emergency planners, developers, fire departments, contractors and others. Using the collaborative FIREWISE planning process participants learn to effectively transfer knowledge and techniques to their own communities. The workshop will be tailored to our region's specific needs with sessions on the County/ Community General Plan Safety Element, multi-hazard mitigation planning and model wildland/ urban interface codes. The Hills Emergency Forum will work with Diablo Fire Safe Council and other organizations to host this two day workshop planned for October 2003.

Regional Assessment - "The After Action Report-Ten Years After": In October 2000, the HEF requested that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) coordinate with the State Office of Emergency

Services (OES) to prepare a regional assessment of the East Bay agencies for the ten year anniversary of the Tunnel Fire in 2001. The assessment reviews the region's progress since the 1991 fire and recommends ways to improve our regional preparedness in the future. Over the past year, HEF has responded to public interest in this document distributing it upon request and posting it on their website (format suitable for downloading).

Focus for the New Millennium - Four New Areas

Collaboration with Other Agencies – HEF members have a long history of collaborating with Fire Chief organizations including the East Bay Hills Fire Chiefs and the Alameda-Contra Costa County Chiefs. This year HEF members also continued their activities with local groups, State and Federal Agencies. The group regularly outreaches to collaborate with potential partners with similar missions of fire safety, as well as assist other agencies to understand our unique fire related issues.

Alameda County Emergency Services Managers (AlCo ESM): In August SLC members presented an overview of the HEF to this county wide organization and how AlCo ESM could participate in upcoming community FireSafe workshop and other outreach programs.

California Fire Alliance: In September the Fire Alliance selected the East Bay as one of the locations for their California FireWise Community Workshops. The California Fire Alliance represents the collaboration of Federal and State Agencies working to coordinate efforts to mitigate wildland fire issues and reduce loss of property and resources.

Claremont Canyon Conservancy: This past year the University of California Berkeley Campus developed a formal volunteer brush removal program with a newly formed neighborhood group, the Claremont Canyon Conservancy. The crews have been focusing on turnouts along Claremont Avenue and Marlboro Drive.

Fire Safe Councils: HEF members are regularly involved with both the Diablo FireSafe Council (representing Alameda and Contra Costa County) and the Santa Clara FireSafe Council. These groups provide the opportunity to collaborate with local homeowners, businesses and policy makers.

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR): HEF SLC members reviewed the draft publication entitled Hazard Mitigation: Fire Hazard Planning and the General Plan. The publication had been developed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the

Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Regional Council of Rural Counties and the California State Association of Counties. The Staff Liaison Committee's comments identified several issues related to evacuation that could be enhanced in the document. OPR requested HEF assistance in developing recommendations related to the jurisdictional, legal and operational issues of evacuation during wildland fires.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL): Members of the HEF SLC met with researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to discuss using their facility to provide advanced fire modeling. Major applications for the LLNL work include:

- Real-time firefighting with predictions of wildfire and smoke behavior and simulations of firefighting operations that is available over the internet to control/command centers and first responders.
- Short-term planning for planning and predictions for prescribed burns and for fire threat analysis.
- Long term planning for such things as the evaluation of forest management options (thinning, planned burns, etc) or community development planning, especially in the urban/wildland interface (where to locate new homes or infrastructure, greenbelts, etc).
- Firefighter Training through use of simulation of wildfire scenarios, including how fires are effected by weather conditions, terrain, and various suppression efforts.

Legislative Outreach – Since the formation of the HEF, members have provided support to state legislators to help shape legislation related to fire safety and fuel mitigation. The major legislative issue monitored this past year focused on Sudden Oak Death and follow up of the CDF/ CDC Conservation Camp

Sudden Oak Death. Both Alameda and Contra Costa County have been confirmed as infested with Sudden Oak Death, an aggressive and recently unknown species of fungus first identified in Mill Valley in 1995. While the course of the disease is unpredictable and variable, death of the tree is almost certain. There is no known cure or effective treatment for this pathogen. It is known to attack 17 species, sixteen of them found in California including madrone, bay laurel, redwood, douglas fir and two species of native oaks. The HEF has been tracking legislation, regulations and research related to this pathogen. During the past year, State and Federal funding has been sought for additional research. Up-to-date information can be found at www.suddenoakdeath.org or through the University of California Cooperative Extension offices.

CDF/ CDC Conservation Camp: Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are two of the few counties in the state that do not contain a CDF/ CDC Conservation Camp. The nearest facility is the Delta Camp out of Suisun City. The CDF/CDC work crews have been used successfully on several local fuel mitigation projects in the East Bay. This year a sixth crew was established in the Delta Camp and has been available to the Bay Area.

Public Outreach – HEF members have used a variety of methods over the years to distribute fire safety information to their constituencies including newspaper articles, reader boards on BART, messages on Safeway shopping bags and hands-on workshops in neighborhoods. This past year outreach included a public health and safety fair sponsored by UC Berkeley on September 18th.

In the Spring of 2002 HEF submitted a grant request to the BLM for funding to support the development of workshops aimed at the public. Disbursements of funds was delayed so both the FireSafe and FIREWISE workshops will be moved to 2003.

This past year also saw continued outreach and coordination with local community groups, especially in the Claremont Canyon and Grizzly Peak areas. HEF members coordinated joint agency parking restrictions along Grizzly Peak to reduce the potential for fire ignitions from cars parking in the grassy shoulders along the road during fire season.

The Forum continues to look for effective methods of communicating information on East Bay Hills fire hazards and mitigation techniques. The HEF updated their Web Site to provide information on the Hills Emergency Forum, fire hazards in the East Bay Hills and fuel mitigation and can be reached at www.lbl.gov/ehs/hef. The e-mail address, hef@value.net, was also established to provide another way for residents in the hills to access member agencies.

Special Projects – The final category of focus includes special projects. During this past year, HEF has worked to develop draft regional standards for vegetation treatment along strategic roadways in the East Bay Hills, using Claremont Canyon as a model. A definite problem exists with fires originating along roadsides; yet, the fuel clearance standards are less well defined. The HEF members are interested in developing a regionally acceptable standard based on the 10' clearance defined in the Uniform Fire Code and integrating roadside clearance as a part of the system of fire management. The draft standards will be released at the annual public meeting, and can be found on the HEF website at www.lbl.gov/ehs/hef.

Assessment & Mitigation Planning

EBRPD Vegetation Management EIR – In 1995 when the member agencies adopted the HEF sponsored Fire Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Management Plan, it was decided that each agency would pursue their environmental clearance to fulfill the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it related to their own lands and management practices. To date only EBMUD has completed an EIR that address current vegetation management practices and fire safety issues. The environmental community views the existing EIRs as out of date. In 2000 a citizen committee, including members of the Hills Emergency Forum, assisted EBRPD to develop the scope of work in the form of a Request of Qualifications (RFQ), and Request for Proposals (RFP) for a vegetation management Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for EBRPD lands. This committee refined the problem description, scope of work, issues to be addressed and other key matters related to vegetation management practices. The only missing ingredient was funding for the study.

This past March, Alameda County and Contra Costa County ballots included Measure K that identified funds for developing a regional Environmental Impact Report. However the measure did not obtain the necessary 2/3rd voter support.

While funding has not been identified, the HEF has agreed on the process for the regional EIR. The EIR will follow the model used to develop the Fire Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Management Plan. EBRPD could serve as the administrative/ contracting agent. HEF members would reactivate the Vegetation Management Consortium and invite other agency staff with expertise in developing CEQA compliance documents to participate. The study would be two tiered, with a Program Level EIR/ EIS addressing the methods and major issues. A Project Level EIR/ EIS would build off of the Program Level document to address the specific lands for those members who need that level of analysis for CEQA compliance.

Continued Impact of Proposition 218 and Budget Cuts on Mitigation

In November 1996, Proposition 218 became law, requiring that all special assessment districts be approved by the property owners or voters within each district. As a result of this state requirement, the special districts in both Berkeley and Oakland were no longer funded by a specific fire assessment tax. These tax assessments provided funds for inspection of private properties for fire code compliance, fuel reduction projects within the district, chipper/dumpster programs to reduce vegetation debris removed by homeowners, education programs and additional fire patrols during high hazard weather. Without this dedicated source of money, these services have to compete for limited general fund dollars and be incorporated into other on-going programs. The loss of the fire assessment districts also eliminated

the dedicated funds that served as matching grants for specific fuel reduction projects.

In an effort to find funding for these needed services, the three cities have developed policies and various approaches. Fire companies in Berkeley, El Cerrito and Oakland continue inspections of fire hazardous properties in the most hazardous areas of their cities. The City of Berkeley was able to continue their popular chipper/ dumpster program in the hills area with permanent funds from a surcharge on the refuse bill approved by Council in 1998. The City of El Cerrito manages city property using control burns and mechanical methods to maintain fuel management zones at the borders of the city and parklands. They also have established two demonstration projects in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Park District. The City of Oakland has continued utilizing alternative labor resources to remove vegetation debris and reduce fire hazards on public lands. Crews from the California Conservation Corps were used through specific work orders. In the two year 2001 City Budget, the Oakland City Council established as a priority fuel management on city properties in the high hazard areas dedicating \$1.7 million for each of two years to fire inspections and fuel management.

Preparedness and Response

Interagency Fire Exercises and the Prescribed Burn Program

2002 has continued the multi-agency fire training exercises in which local fire departments meet to practice coordinated fire suppression under actual field conditions (i.e., in conjunction with a controlled burn.) Although not specifically a fire exercise -- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley and City of Berkeley participated in a regional interagency exercise this past June. "Berkeley Alert" used a terrorism-based scenario which included an element of urgent mass evacuations -- an issue that is also critical to wildland fire training exercises.

This year interagency training also returned to Camp Parks in the Pleasanton area for the seventh time. The Incident Command System (ICS) was tested under field conditions, and firefighters received essential training in wildland fire suppression techniques under actual fire conditions.

The use of prescribed fire continues to be expanded by the East Bay Regional Park District, EBMUD and the City of El Cerrito in cooperation with local fire agencies in the Berkeley-Oakland hills. EBMUD, working with fire crews from CDF Delta Camp, burned approximately 600 tons of brush prior in the Oakland Hills and at Lafayette Reservoir prior to the onset of the 2002 fire season. East Bay Regional Parks District burned approximately 3 acres at Lake Chabot.

HEF members continue to explore the expanded use of fire as a fuel management tool in areas where other methods are not feasible due to slope or soil conditions. This year the Bay Area Air Quality Management District completed revisions to Regulation 5 - Open Burning, that will allow prescribed fire programs to continue to use prescribed fire, but requires more stringent monitoring and reporting. Prescribed fire continues to represent the most cost effective (i.e., cheapest) fuel reduction tool available to local agencies, but can only be used in conjunction with extensive public education campaigns and stringent safety parameters. Future controlled burn plans include pile burns along Lafayette Reservoir and near the intersection of Wildcat Canyon Road and Camino Pablo in Orinda.

Weather Monitoring

The Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS), installed under HEF oversight, is generously supported with funding from the East Bay Regional Park District. The weather information is used to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire patrols and deployments. The data from the RAWS can be accessed at web sites developed by the East Bay Regional Park District at <http://www.ebparks.org/fire/firewx.htm>.

The local uses of RAWS data are important. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) based in Sacramento issues Fire Weather warnings for the state. These warnings, also called "red-flag warnings," trigger deployment of additional local fire suppression resources when responding to a fire. RAWS provides more current local micro-climate data that can be used to confirm the CDF red-flag warning. This confirmation of local weather can prevent the over deployment of resources when the local conditions are not as severe as general state-wide conditions. Occasionally local RAWS data will also provide data that recommends the use of additional suppression resources even when no CDF red-flag warning has been issued. This year, as of the beginning of October we had eleven days of red-flag warnings and fire weather watch with cooperative patrols throughout the high hazard areas.

The East Bay Hills Fire Chiefs formally coordinate the local Extreme Fire Weather warnings. They also provide continued local training on protocols and use of the weather data.

This year the HEF began support of the development of a FireStats program to make better use of the National Fire Danger Rating System. The project will streamline dissemination of derived from the East Bay's 10 Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS), two of which are in the HEF's immediate area of concern. Fire danger information would be immediately available to land and fire managers, homeowner's groups, media and individuals via the Internet. Key fire danger information (burn index,

ignition components etc.) will be broadcast to firefighters in the field by pager and e-mail several times each day. It will enhance the current web site EBParks.org/firewise/fire. The information will be used by the park district as a part of their high fire danger park closures. It will also used to set dispatch levels by EBRPD, LBL, Berkeley and EBMUD.

GPS for Fire Boundaries: EBRPD developed a simple step by step guide and handheld GPS unit called "the Garmin GPS III" so their fire fighters can document fire perimeters. This will make our fire reporting more accurate and easier and let us begin to develop a more detailed local fire history. The software and units are less than \$80 and EBRPD is interested in sharing this development.



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Revised 10/2/02

Organization Structure



City of Berkeley ^L
City of El Cerrito
City of Oakland

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF)
East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)
University of California, Berkeley (UCB) ^J
Berkeley Laboratory (LBNL)

Staff Liaison
Committee

East Bay Hills Fire Chiefs Consortium

Alameda Co.	Albany
Berkeley ^v	CDF ^v
CoCo Cons	EBMUD ^v
EBRPD ^v	El Cerrito ^v
Fremont	Hayward
LBNL ^v	Oakland ^v
Piedmont	Richmond

Vegetation Management Consortium

CDF	^v
City of Berkeley	^v
City of Oakland	^v
City of Piedmont	
EBMUD	^v
EBRPD	^v
LBNL	^v
UC Berkeley	^v

^J 2002 Chair
^L 2003 Chair
^v HEF Member



ANNUAL ROTATION OF HEF CHAIR

2003	City of Berkeley
2004	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
2005	City of El Cerrito
2006	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
2007	East Bay Municipal Utility District
2008	East Bay Regional Park District
2009	City of Oakland
2010	University of California, Berkeley

2.0 Report Background and Overview

This report describes activities undertaken to achieve the HEF's 2002 workplan. The workplan, which appears in the Appendices, identified goals and projects in four critical areas of emergency management: assessment, mitigation, preparedness and response. It sets a milestone or due date for action and it designates the lead or responsible standing committee, organization or jurisdiction. We have organized the report by these goals and include the group with the primary responsibility.

The Staff Liaison Committee:

The HEF's administrative component -- the Staff Liaison Committee (SLC) -- is comprised of representatives from all member agencies. The SLC is responsible for developing and monitoring progress on the Forum's annual workplan, analyzing HEF policy issues for agency executives, identifying issues for possible legislative support, and coordinating the HEF annual public meeting.

Two subcommittees are activated by the SLC as needed to address specific issues -- the East Bay Fire Chiefs (EBFC) and the Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC).

East Bay Fire Chiefs

EBFC consists of the chief officers from fire departments in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and representatives of allied agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry (CDF). It aims to standardize equipment and training for the two counties, assure coordinated responses to major incidents, and educate the East Bay community about wildland fire safety. Fire Chiefs from the East Bay meet on a regular basis in conjunction with the Alameda and Contra Costa County Chiefs.

Vegetation Management Consortium

The VMC includes representatives from the East Bay cities, other public agencies and utilities, who have a stake in fire safety and fuel management in the East Bay hills. Its focus is fire-hazard reduction through vegetation management strategies.

The third section of the report summarizes the accomplishments of the HEF member agencies during 2002. All activities are discussed in terms of the four key areas -- assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response -- and in light of HEF's goals in each area. Finally, Section 4.0 is a summary of the proposed 2003 Goals and Workplan.

This report is not an exhaustive list of ongoing efforts by each agency to manage fire risk. It simply highlights important interagency efforts conducted under the Forum's auspices.

3.0 Workplan Accomplishments

Assessment

Goal: *Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns.*

Objective: *Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues.*

Objective: *Revise fire response plans to incorporate review comments.*

Status: The ongoing revision of fire response plans focuses on spring Mutual Response Agreement (MRA) drills. Comments from the previous year's drill were incorporated during the two drills sponsored by Berkeley, Oakland and East Bay Regional Park District Fire Departments. Up to five local fire departments participated in these drills.

The City of El Cerrito provides fire protection services for the City of Kensington. This past year the Kensington Fire Protection District continued to improve the waterflow at its interface edge with East Bay Regional Park District lands (phase III of their five phase project). They also added eleven fire hydrants in the wildland areas.

Objective: *Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban wildland intermix fires.*

Status: All participating fire jurisdictions have response plans for urban/wildland intermix fires in the East Bay hills. These plans identify equipment and staffing levels for different levels of response, incident coordination procedures and guidelines for resource deployment during major incidents.

Objective: *Acknowledge and evaluate October 20, 2001 public comment on threat zone management issues.*

Status: The SLC and HEF reviewed comments on threat zone management issues from the October 20, 2001, public meeting. Verbal comments during the meeting reflected an ongoing public concern about fire hazards in the East Bay Hills and desire for more fuel reduction, especially in Claremont Canyon. They offered their support for mutual aid responses to fires in the hills, but expressed concern for the need for more patrols during red flag weather. There was also request for information on how the new composite construction materials respond to fire. These comments were incorporated into the development of the directions for the coming year.

Goal: *Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs.*

Objective: *Develop plan for updating 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazard).*

Objective: *Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.*

Status: Agencies update data regarding their individual properties on an on-going basis. Forum members continue to search for an effective methodology to update the data on a region wide basis. They have requested the continued support of University of California at Berkeley who developed the initial data base. Funding remains the primary challenge to completing the assessment update and mitigation programs. A variety of funding sources continues to be pursued at the Local, State and Federal levels.

Prevention/ Mitigation

Goal: *Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information sharing requirements.*

Objective: *Incorporate the Fuel Management Plan (FMP) in all planning and mitigation projects.*

Status: The FMP has been incorporated into each member's guiding policy documents and projects that are underway.

Objective: *Monitor 2001 plans for goat-grazing and joint maintenance operations.*

Status: A joint Request For Proposal for multi-year contracts was issued to goat grazing contractors in spring of 1996 by HEF member agencies. This resulted in a more coordinated effort throughout the region and the identification of new goat herds. Three different contractors have helped reduce fuel loads on properties managed by City of Oakland, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, East Bay Regional Park District, Berkeley Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley. Over 500 acres were managed using goats.

The Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area was awarded a \$20,000 supplemental grant from California SB 1740, to fund weed control and fuel reduction by alternatives to goat grazing (i.e., hand pulling and weedeaters). EBRPD's matched this grant with \$42,000 -- the amount that would have been spent at the site on goat grazing. The three-year pilot project is located on a 20-acre site in Tilden Park

Objective: *Share Geographic Information Systems (GIS) report and data with other agencies (upon request)*

Status: The GIS data is available on CD-ROM. As the data is refined and updated it will continue to be shared with HEF members and others.

Goal: *Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs*

Objective: *Provide public education about code requirements.*

Objective: *Conduct and track inspections on private property.*

Objective: *Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.*

Objective: *Report on inspection and compliance programs.*

Status: The dedicated funding source for both the cities of Berkeley and Oakland were discontinued as of Summer of 1997 due to Proposition 218. Inspections continued through the 2002 fire season at a reduced level. Both cities responded to citizen calls regarding hazardous properties and provide information to their citizens. Oakland's vegetation inspectors attended several homeowner association meetings throughout 2002 to provide information, answer questions and encourage community efforts of vegetation clearance. The Hiller Highland homeowners this year cleared french broom, dead vegetation and removed several pine trees in their common areas. Similarly the Buckeye Homeowners provided roadside clearance along Broadway Terrace.

During 2002, the City of Berkeley completed 565 inspections for the properties in the Berkeley Hazardous Fire Area. Of those properties 247 had no violations. 368 properties were reported as having violation; reinspection cleared 96 of those properties. Oakland's inspection program has been continued by the Fire Prevention Bureau inspecting 19,400 properties. During 2002 85% of the improved properties were in compliance after the first inspection. On the unimproved properties only 45% were in compliance at the first inspection. However, as of the end of September 2002, 88% of the unimproved vacant lots were brought into compliance. El Cerrito has over 4,000 properties it inspects in its very high fire hazard severity zones. Similar to the other cities, El Cerrito works with property owners to clear properties of hazardous conditions. Approximately 713 properties were abated this year.

Other fire code compliance projects included East Bay Regional Parks District defensible space projects within the City of Richmond city limits along Wildcat Canyon, Alvarado Park, Kennedy Grove, Sobrante Hills, El Cerrito - Kensington area done in conjunction with inspections by the Richmond Fire Department. Park staff cut annual grasses, shrubs and limbed up trees to establish additional defensible space on Park property adjacent to private homes.

Goal: *Continue annual fuel reduction actions.*

Objective: *Continue annual maintenance of existing fuel breaks*

Objective: *Continue fuel reduction (including removal of hazardous trees on public property)*

Objective: *Evaluate options for restoring curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June – October).*

Status: . HEF members have continued and expanded on-going fuel reduction projects. UC Berkeley has completed the second phase of their Claremont Canyon Headslope fuel removal project. The project covers 4 acres of eucalyptus in a particularly high-ignition prone grove at the headslope of Claremont Canyon. Approximately 800 Eucalyptus trees were removed in this year's project, funded through the University's annual fire mitigation program. Following standard procedure of local and state public agencies, eucalyptus trunks were immediately treated after cutting with an inhibitor to prevent re-sprouting. In addition, volunteer fuel reduction projects led by the Claremont Canyon Conservancy were completed at various roadside locations and at the Phase I site in Claremont Canyon.

East Bay Municipal Utility District continued timber harvesting/fuel modification on the eastside of San Pablo Reservoir. Loggers using traditional draft horses selectively removed dead pine trees over a 24 acre area. Follow-up weed and brush removal to prevent proliferation of undesirable vegetation on the 12 acres of dead pine trees harvested in 2001 was completed using hand labor.

EBMUD, in partnership with CDF and the Claremont Conservancy completed a fuel reduction project on 5 acres of dense Coyote Brush located at the intersection of Fish Ranch Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard. The CDF crew from Delta Camp provided the labor. Follow-up with hand crews has minimized invasion of the site by thistles and hemlock.

EBMUD, working with fire crews from the CDF Delta Camp, burned 18 brush piles located around the rim trail at Lafayette Reservoir. This project helped mitigate the fire hazard in this heavily vegetated urban interface area. The results of the work, including smoke management, were praised by many of the adjacent homeowners and passersby.

EBRPD completed yearly spring mowing and weedeating for reducing herbaceous fuels in fuel break areas of Wildcat Canyon, Tilden, Claremont Canyon, Sibley, Huckleberry, Redwood, and Anthony Chabot Parks.

Fuel reduction projects for both the cities of Berkeley and Oakland continue to be affected by the loss of the dedicated funding sources. Last year the City of Oakland increased their budget to \$1.7 million dollars for each of two years to allow fuel reduction work to expand to all five canyon areas in the Oakland hills. This year the East Bay Conservation Corps working with the City Tiger mower crew provided clearance along several main roads throughout the high fire hazard area. In 1998, the City of

Berkeley adopted a surcharge on to private refuse bills to provide permanent funding for the popular curbside chipping and vegetation recycling program. During their sixteen week program in 2002 they collected over 191 ton of materials; chipping 137 tons curbside and collecting 54 tons of bagged materials.

The City of El Cerrito continued to manage their two demonstration vegetation management projects, in Kensington and in El Cerrito along Leneve Place to Camp Herms, developed in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Park District last year. They continue to manage 90 acres of city property with a year round program that use control burns and mechanical methods to maintain fuel management zones at the borders of the city and parklands.

Objective: *Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) among HEF agencies.*

Objective: *Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan*

Status: Member agencies continue to look for ways to foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation. This past year the Claremont Canyon Headslope Project included UC Berkeley and City of Oakland property.

Preparedness

Goal: *Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City Plans.*

Objective: *Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.*

Status: This is an ongoing effort to ensure that the elements in agency plans are compatible. To this end, the SLC shares information and seeks to establish strong lines of communication between agencies. This year, the HEF Staff Liaison Committee reviewed the draft publication entitled Hazard Mitigation: Fire Hazard Planning and the General Plan. The publication had been developed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The SLC identified several issues related to evacuation that could be enhanced in the document. OPR requested HEF assistance in developing recommendations related to the jurisdictional, legal and operational issues of evacuation during wildland fires.

Goal: *Continue Citizen emergency training programs.*

Objective: *Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CORE and CERT.*

Status: Oakland, Berkeley and El Cerrito have continued to find funding to support their CORE IV, CERT and NEAT programs that help prepare citizens for emergencies. They also coordinate and train with amateur radio enthusiasts and promote citizen involvement in awareness programs.

Goal: *Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training.*

Objective: *Continue to evaluate the performance of the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) equipment*

Status: The Remote Automated Weather System (RAWS) continues to be included as a line item in East Bay Regional Park District's annual budget to support maintenance of sensors that cover the East Bay Hills and surrounding regions. The development of the FireStats program will increase the effective use of this information.

Objective: *Conduct interagency training in systems operations and development of user protocols.*

Objective: *Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes. 1) Conduct a two day Wildland Fire Academy. 2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.*

Status: During the region's MRA drills and training, such as Wildland 2002 at Camp Parks, the "Berkeley Alert" exercise and the training burns, dispatchers are trained in systems operations and user protocols.

Objective: *Expand public education programs during Wildland Fire Prevention Month.*

Status: In September the University of California sponsored a Health and Safety Fair. Other HEF members participated in providing information to the local communities. City of Berkeley provided an information brochure to homeowners in their Hazardous Fire Area.

Goal: *Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2002 fire season*

Objective: *Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.*

Objective: *Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.*

Objective: *Maintain and update HEF website and e-mail*

Objective: *Develop a compendium for homeowners of existing research about common landscape plants and fuel management treatments.*

Status: SLC members participated in public safety and education outreach programs including response to requests for information from local newspapers, radio and television. The web site www.lbl.gov/ehs/hef and e-mail hef@value.net continues to provide information about the HEF and an electronic method to connect with the organization. This past year the HEF website (hosted by LBNL) was redesigned to make it easier to navigate. The methods for updating it were enhanced and simplified. The SLC continues to look for opportunities to link with other relevant research. Links to sites hosted by UC Forest Products Laboratory provide updated information about the community workshops.

Goal: *Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives*

Objective: *Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.*

Objective: *Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.*

Status: The Staff Liaison Committee distributes materials and conducts briefing sessions with information officers (IOs) highlighting issues attractive to local media in order to continue reinforcing regional protocols, multi-agency preparedness and response actions. This year the SLC used the media interest in Sudden Oak Death to remind the public about increase fire danger related to diseased native vegetation caused by this pathogen.

Goal: *Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads.*

Objective: *Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.*

Objective: *Maintain existing fire roads.*

Status: HEF members continue the annual process of evaluating storm damage and maintaining fire roads where required.

Response

Goal: *Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response*

Status: Formal Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs) are completed between EBFCC members in the Oakland-Berkeley hills area. The agreements, some of which are eight years old, are now being refined and strengthened. The area covered by MRAs has expanded to the East side of the hills through discussions with Orinda and Moraga. During fires in areas of "mutual threat," both Alameda County and Contra Costa County Fire Departments now also provide aid. In August 2002, LBNL subcontracted with the Alameda County Fire Department for fire protection services, which expanded and strengthened the MRA's between HEF member agencies and the Alameda County Fire Department.

Goal: *Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies*

Objective: *Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements.*

Objective: *Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signatories.*

Status: Each agency in the HEF monitors their own plans and training related to the state-wide Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS). Continued training and coordination in the uniform Incident Command System (ICS) is provided at each of the mutual aid drills. As of this year, the State wide mutual aid agreement has been signed by 135 water utilities.

2003 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

Annual Focus

- q Collaboration with Other Agencies
- q Legislative Outreach
- q Public Education
- q Special Projects

*Primary
Responsibility*

Assessment

- q Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns. (SLC)
- q Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs. (SLC)

Prevention/ Mitigation

- q Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information-sharing requirements. (SLC)
- q Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs. (SLC)
- q Continue annual fuel reduction actions. (SLC)

Preparedness

- q Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans. (SLC)
- q Continue Citizen emergency training programs. (SLC)
- q Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training. (EBFCC)
- q Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2003 fire season. (SLC)
- q Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives. (SLC)
- q Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads. (EBFCC)

Response

- q Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response Agreements. (EBFCC)
- q Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies. (EBFCC)

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
A. Assessment			
1. Water system	a. Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues.	Ongoing	EBMUD
2. Fire Response	a. Revise fire response operation plans to incorporate 2002 review comments. b. Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban-wildland intermix fires.	October 2003 Annual	EBFCC EBFCC
3. Public Comment	a. Acknowledge and evaluate October 18, 2002 public comments on threat zone management issues.	April 2003	SLC
4. Hazardous Fuel Assessment	a. Develop plan for update of 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazards).	October 2003	SLC
5. Funding for Mitigation Programs	a. Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.	October 2003	SLC
B. Prevention/Mitigation			
1. Fuel Management Plan (FMP)	a. Incorporate FMP in all planning. b. Monitor 2003 goat grazing contracts and joint maintenance operations.	October 2003 October 2003	SLC SLC

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
2. Support implementation of AB 337 (Bates)	a. Share Geographical Information System (GIS) data with other agencies (upon request).	October 2003	VMC
3. Promote and support full implementation of municipal programs for fire safety codes, inspection and enforcement	a. Provide public education about code requirements.	Ongoing	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
	b. Conduct and track inspections on public & private properties.	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley
	c. Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.	Annual	El Cerrito Oakland
	d. Report on inspection and compliance programs.	Annual	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
4. Fuel Reduction	a. Continue annual maintenance of existing fuelbreaks v EBRPD: Maintain 15 miles of existing fuelbreak. Control suckers from cut eucalyptus stumps. v EBMUD: Maintain 1.5 miles of multi-agency fuelbreaks within District lands. Remove suckers from 19 acres of eucalyptus stumps in Oakland urban wildland interface. Manage ridgetop annual grasslands. v UCB: Maintain 8 miles of defensible space, including roadside and fire trail maintenance. v Oakland: Maintain 4 miles of existing fuelbreak.	Annual	EBRPD EBMUD
	b. Continue fuel reduction (including removing hazardous trees on public property). v EBRPD: Thin stands of eucalyptus trees in Anthony Chabot Park.	October 2003	SLC EBRPD
			UCB Oakland

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p>B. Mitigation (continued)</p> <p>4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBMUD: Maintain 15 acres using goat grazing. Maintain 10 acres by hand labor. Continue selective removal in ridgetop Eucalyptus groves, culling 1,000 stems per year. Maintain 1.2 mile grassland fuel break along ridge at Grizzly Peak Blvd and Fish Ranch Road. UCB: Maintain 37 acres using goat grazing. Maintain an additional 18 acres using hand crews. Manage 15 acres to develop and maintain ground force fire suppression zone at ridgetop interface with Panoramic Hill residential area. Berkeley: Continue use of hand crews to reduce fuels on public lands. El Cerrito Continue use of hand crews, machinery and prescribed fire to reduce fuels on public lands and at buffer between City and EBRPD park lands. Oakland: Continue use of goat grazing and hand crews to reduce fuels on 320 acres of public lands. LBNL: Maintain 170 acres to reduce potential wildland fire effects. Manage 30 acres to maintain a Striketeam Fire Suppression Line at midcanyon wildland interface. Manage 20 acres to intermix zone standards to minimize effect of firebrand, and to minimize other ignitions on developed side of interface. Manage 20 acres to permit ground force suppression at border of natural areas within lower canyon intermix zone. 		<p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Berkeley</p> <p>El Cerrito</p> <p>Oakland</p> <p>LBNL</p>

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
B. Mitigation (continued) 4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)	c. Continue Berkeley's curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June - October). Evaluate funding options for the City of Oakland. d. Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) with HEF agencies.	Annual October 2003	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland SLC
C. Preparedness 1. Promote coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans	e. Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan. a. Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.	October 2003	SLC
2. Maintain citizen training	a. Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CORE, CERT and NEAT	October 2003	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland
3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training	a. Continue to evaluate performance of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) equipment. b. Conduct interagency training in systems operations and develop user protocols.	May 2003 October 2003	EBFCC EBFCC

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
C. Preparedness (continued)			
3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training (cont.)	c. Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes. 1) Conduct a two-day Wildland Fire Academy. 2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.	October 2003 Annual Annual	EBFCC EBFCC EBFCC
4. Improve Public Awareness	a. Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets. b. Expand public education programs during Wildland Fire Prevention Month (June). c. Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season. d. Maintain and update a HEF website. http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/hef and e-mail hef@value.net e. Develop a compendium for homeowners of existing research on common landscape plants and fuel management treatments.	Annual Ongoing October 2003 October 2003 October 2003	SLC/ EBFCC EBFCC SLC SLC
5. Media Support	a. Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues. b. Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.	Ongoing October 2003	SLC SLC
6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area	a. Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.	Annual	EBFCC

Hills Emergency Forum 2003 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
C. Preparedness (continued) 6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area (cont.)	b. Maintain 155 miles of existing fire roads. Continue to maintain 6 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 25 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 8 miles of existing fire roads.	Ongoing	EBRPD EBMUD Oakland UCB
D. Response 1. Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs)	a. Refine MRAs among EBFCC members.	Ongoing	EBFCC
2. Support Standardization Emergency Management System (SEMS)	a. Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements. b. Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signators.	Ongoing Ongoing	EBFCC EBMUD